

2013 Needs Assessment for Escambia County

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Accomplishments

- The Children's Policy Council and Juvenile Court System were awarded funds two consecutive years through a DYS grant to serve high at-risk youth and recently applied for the third year.
- The Number of DYS Commitments has decreased by 47% since implementing Project Turn Around.
- Family Drug Court continues to thrive, currently having eight active participants.
- Successful Drug Court participants occasionally return at random to express their gratitude for the treatment they received through this program.
- The Family Hope Place GED Program for youth ages 16-21 currently has 25 participants. This program provides job readiness training and other useful training to youth through out the community.
- The Coalition for a Healthier Escambia County conducted several community events such as a bicycle rodeo, back to school fund raiser, reconstructed a local park and initiated a fathers day for healthy men week.
- Alabama State University in conjunction with Auburn University created the Broadband Initiative. This program consists of 11 modules created to tackle bully issues within the community. This program is conducted at ASU Southern Normal College in Brewton.
- The Community Action Team program that addresses the infant mortality rate within the county is a continued success. There has not been an infant death resulting from reckless endangerment in the past two years.
- Children' Policy Council conducted it's First Annual Family Fun Run to promote the organization throughout the community. Through this initiative the council was able to inform the community of the CPC and its function.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

PROMOTE THE FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FM and AM Radio Stations.• Newspapers, Media Coverage and Community Awareness.• Community Venues such as Schools, Hospitals, and Doctors' Offices.• Partnerships such as Hope Place, Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Center, Dept of Human Resources, Jefferson Davis Community College Fatherhood Initiative and ASU Southern Normal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentoring Program• Brochures• CPC Social Media site• Socio-Economic Awareness• Information From the Local Police Depts. and Drug Task Force

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to follow up on all referrals and have active participants in Family Drug Court
2. Free advertisement through the local newspapers and radio stations.
3. Promote socio economic awareness through more community involvement.

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start programs countywide. • HIPPY programs countywide. • After school tutoring and summer programs through the City and County School systems and the local YMCA's • Credit Recovery at County and City Schools. • Summer Science camp at Turtle Point Science Center. • Teen Mom, Adult Parenting, Job Readiness and Healthy Marriage Initiative classes taught through Hope Place Family Resource Center. • Abstinence Education classes taught through Sav-A-Life. • 16-21 and Adult Education (GED) programs countywide. • Little Hornets Summer Academy, Adult Trainings Classes, and various College Degrees are offered through Alabama State University, Southern Normal Campus. Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Center has an Anti-Drinking Awareness Campaign, providing media coverage in schools and the community. • Healthy Community Initiative promotes healthy eating and family involvement. • Girls Mentoring at Atmore Family Life Center • Truancy Diversion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Head Start programs countywide. • At-Risk Programs for young males • On-line GED programs. • Increase abstinence and teenage pregnancy prevention classes in school and throughout the community.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to support pre-school HIPPY and Early Head Start programs throughout the entire county.
2. Continue to support after-school programs, tutoring programs, summer programs, and any continued educational classes throughout the entire county.
3. Continue to support all abstinence programs, pregnancy, parenting, and marriage and relationship educational programs.
4. Continue to support all drug and alcohol awareness programs.
5. Continue to support the Healthy Community Initiative.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

DEVELOP DIVERSION PROGRAMS THAT ENHANCE THE SUCCESS AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dropout Prevention Specialist• Remedial Tutoring Services• Juvenile Court Diversion Programs: Project Turn Around, STOP, and Youth Opportunities• County School System: Truancy Diversion Program.• City School System: 'Talk About It' tip line.• Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health: The Compass School, Juvenile Substance Abuse Groups, The Anti-Drinking Tip line, and 'Mental Health First Aide', and Anger Management.• Mentor Programs: Ivy League and Kappa League• Coalition for a Healthier Escambia County: Community Action Team that addresses the Infant Mortality in this county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gang prevention and educational programs.• More bullying prevention programs.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue to support current programs and seek additional funding for other Juvenile Court Diversion programs.
2. Continue to seek funding to employ the Dropout Prevention Specialist position.
3. Continue to support the all programs that serve At-Risk youth.